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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Conditions in Kowala, powiat Pinczow: Agriculture/  
Shortages/Nearby Industry

50X1-HUM

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DATE DISTR. 9 Oct 1953

NO. OF PAGES 3

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO  
REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

### Agriculture

2. "The peasants of Kowala are very much opposed to collectivization. Only two young men in the village - Franciszek Skrzypek and Franciszek Tracz are all for kolkhozes. They make constant propaganda. They are heartily detested by the entire village, but nothing can be done as the authorities are on their side.

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The State paid in 1952 the following prices:

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- 9 z1 per kg of 'live animal', if well fed.
- 5-8 z1 per kg of 'live animal', inferior quality.
- 28 z1 per cubic meter potatoes.
- 120 z1 per cubic meter wheat.
- 60 z1 per cubic meter rye or oats.

These commodities would have brought double those prices, or more, on the free market, depending on season and location.

4. "It is permissible to abandon a private farm if one turns it over to the State with all its inventory. [redacted] a man who farmed 10 hectares in Szewcze on the Widawa River. He got the land after World War II when the authorities were distributing the former German farms in that district. He would have been happy on it, if it had not been for the agrarian policy of the regime. The combined force of installments, taxes and compulsory deliveries forced him to give it up in 1952. He lost all the capital he had paid in installments towards future purchase.

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Shortages

5. "The following articles are virtually unobtainable on the countryside: fuel oil, nails, bicycles, spare parts for agricultural machinery, radio sets, stockings, all types of metal houseware (pails, saucepans, mugs, dishes, washbowls, etc.), sewing needles and all kinds of wire and chains for livestock.
6. "Rubber boots - indeed all rubber articles - are in extremely short supply. The boots occasionally available are of exceedingly low quality. After about three months the rubber cracks, and the boots are no longer waterproof. Such boots when available cost 150 z1 a pair.
7. "Textiles are in extremely short supply, especially the cheaper good such as korty cajgi and dreluchy. Material for underwear is scarce.
8. "Work clothes and readymade underwear are in better supply. It is part of the economic policy of the regime to promote the artisans' cooperatives (spoldzielnie rzemieslnicze) by distributing their output and indirectly forcing the people to buy. It is much cheaper to sew underwear at home, but the lack of appropriate materials makes that almost impossible.

Nearby Industry

9. "The Dolina Nidy (Nida Valley) is being gradually industrialized. It is supposed to be rich in natural resources, and intensive surveys are underway. [redacted]
10. [redacted] in Busko Zdroj at Ulica Sadowa No 2 are the local offices of the Kielecki Zjednoczenie Przemyslowe - Budowlane which is doing survey work in the Nida Valley. A research department led by Soviet engineers is prospecting for oil in the valley.
11. "A sulphuric acid factory is under construction near Tausko-Zdroj. The whole area is rich in lime. It is said this sulphuric acid is required for the manufacture of steel. As the Nida Valley is not far from Silesia, the transport presents no problems.
12. "In autumn 1952 construction of a gypsum factory started near Pinczow, in the direction of Busko-Zdroj. The work stopped suddenly in February 1953. [redacted]

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[redacted] The work resumed in the spring. [redacted]  
[redacted] seven Soviet engineers had made new plans and were supervising the work.

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13. "Several private gypsum factories in the area were nationalized at the beginning of 1953. They are now operated by the State, though they had functioned well before.
14. "Near the village of Moglia not far from Monopol Tytoniowy, and near the village of Kujawy, the authorities started in the second half of 1952 to build sluices on the Wisla to straighten out the river channel.

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